

It is precisely because the American people focus on the big picture that Republicans are doing everything possible to replace the image the American people see with a test pattern on television.

The President's ratings are below sea level. Republicans are counting the number of seats in the lifeboats. It is simple arithmetic, and the addition has Republicans subtracting.

Mathematics requires proof, and there is plenty. The President bequeaths to the future President any decision about Iraq. His plan takes form: Stay in Iraq until it is somebody else's problem. Invite the embattled President of Italy to address a joint session of the U.S. Congress, speaking in Italian, to use Congress as a political campaign for a backdrop in an Italian election. Charge the Iraq war on credit and mask its real impact on the deficit by leaving it outside the annual budget.

The clearest sign of all is the recent change in the House of Representatives to the 2-minute vote. Call it government by stopwatch. A mere 120 seconds to decide the faith of legislation affecting the lives of every American.

Under Repocracy, legislation comes to the floor of the House only when its passage is guaranteed. That is why we are going home today, because they can't get the budget. It is not guaranteed. The 2-minute drill forces blind allegiance and stiff arms democracy. But that is the intent of Repocracy. Math is math.

Republicans are losing their stranglehold on power. What is a party to do? Well, Republicans have concluded the best offense is a missing offense, so Republicans have substituted the business of the state for the business of reelection.

Suddenly, the House leaders feel an urgent need for recess after recess after recess. We have never had a week off for Saint Patrick's Day. It must be faith-based. The Republican mandated Congressional schedule has nothing to do with the people's business and everything to do with the Republican's reelection business.

The thinking goes like this: If Members are not in Washington, D.C., the national press corps is taken out of the equation. They can't trail 435 House Members, so news coverage goes dark. With Congress out of session, Americans cannot watch C-SPAN to see for themselves what is happening, or not, on the floor of the House. The curtain closes on the big picture. Mission accomplished.

The word "Congress" comes from the Latin "con+gresso," which means come together. The idea was for an orderly and reasoned debate. Take out the stopwatch and clock 2 minutes. Then decide if you think America is governed by a functioning Congress today.

Repocracy is not merely a dereliction of duty, it is an outright threat to democracy. That is the big picture, the

one Republicans don't want the American people to see.

But there is more than one channel, and the American people are watching. They would like to know why this is the do-nothing Congress that will be in session less than the do-nothing Congress of 1948. This will be the Congress that spent the least time discussing our problems on the floor.

We are at war all over the place, we are in debt worse than we have ever been in history. We have no health care for 46 million people. But where is the Congress? They have left. They have gone home. They have got to campaign. If they were here, the people could see they were doing nothing. But Repocracy says we only do it when we rubber stamp it for the President. Otherwise we are getting out of here.

Now it is getting tough because people don't want to rubber stamp for the President anymore. There is an election coming. It is coming soon.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SODREL). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DREIER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

LIMITING SIZE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

MR. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago, several of us on the floor talked on the value of the Federal Government not trying to be more efficient but simply trying to be less, and returning some misappropriated authority back to the states. To poorly paraphrase, Justice Brandeis, a minority decision he gave in the 1920s: The States are indeed the laboratory of democracy. If you think about it, if a State tries something creative that does not work, we are not all harmed. When we, on the other hand, tries something that does not work, the entire Nation is harmed.

For the Federal Government, the only advantage the Federal Government has is of uniformity. By definition, what we do is one-size-fits-all. States on the other hand have a greater opportunity of being creative, being fair, being just simply because they have a greater opportunity of meeting individual needs. Federal Government does not mean to do harm, we just do.

Let me give you an example: I want to introduce you to a constituent of mine, an elderly gentleman, we will call him Gene. He owned a farm that had been in his family for several generations. Of course, on this farm ran a small creek. This creek went to a larger creek, which went to a river, which went into a bay, which eventually went into the Great Salt Lake. Even though this dead-end lake, all within the state of Utah, has been declared by the Federal Government to be international waterway, because in the 1800s, an entrepreneurial pioneer was paid for ferrying sheep across the lake for summer grazing. Go figure. But back to Gene.

Gene had eight acres of this land that was on the main road, two of it was elevated. Since they were now planting hay on this land, they have to in Utah irrigate. So he built a man-made ditch from the creek to his property to flood up the lower areas so it finally hit the higher areas and water his crop, until the Federal Government declared that the man-made ditch was indeed the creek bed, the man-made standing water was now Federal wetlands; and, if Gene did not like it, it was his responsibility to prove the Federal Government was wrong. Which he actually did. The Soil and Water Conservation District came in and showed the land was different. He dug wells which showed that there was a clay base underneath, so even if the water was there, it would never sink into the aquifer and get to the river. He even put a flexible pipe into the ditch and put the creek water back into the creek, and oddly enough the land went dry, to which the Federal Government then threatened him with fines and imprisonment because he was harming Federal wetland. Then, when confronted with the evidence, they simply said, "Well, we are in a drought cycle. You are going to have to wait at least 5 years until we have a wet cycle to see if the water will naturally appear by itself."

He tried to sell this land at one time. A factory wished to buy it which would make apparel and create 100 jobs in his community, but he could not do it because now this was a Federal wetland. It was not a taking, mind you, because the Federal Government still allowed him to raise hay even though the price he made from the hay barely paid the taxes on this land that was now zoned as commercial property on the main road.

Gene did what most people when they run up against the bureaucracy of the Federal Government did, he surrendered. He eventually sold his property at \$400,000. However, the exact same kind of land next door on the same road was sold for \$750,000 for the same acreage. Which means, \$350,000, which should have been his retirement, it should have been his posterity. The wealth from his own property was denied him simply because we as a government usually do one-size-fits-all.

It is an interesting question of why we harm our own people, why we sometimes insist they have to prove their own innocence, and why we fail our own simply because the Federal Government is too large, too inflexible to be creative, to be just, and to be fair.

One last comment about Gene. His family raised on this property sugar beets. I am not a farmer, but it does not take a rocket scientist, either, to understand you cannot raise a root crop in a wetlands. Some day I wish the Federal Government would learn that as well.

DELPHI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise on behalf of both current and retired Delphi workers in my district and around our Nation who are suffering from the financial woes of the largest automotive parts manufacturer in the country. Unfortunately, these Delphi workers are but the latest victims in a series of tragedies for the American worker. What we are currently witnessing, the bankruptcy and subsequent reorganization of Delphi is the fallout from regrettable trade agreements like NAFTA, and CAFTA, and the accompanying influence of some elected officials who are for globalized big business at the expense of the American people, big business built on low wages, no benefits, and no worker safety.

Job loss is also due to major auto firms' leadership and executive boards who failed to make fuel efficient vehicles that Americans and the world want to buy. So our workers suffer.

Delphi's most recent proposal is to lower wages from \$27 an hour to \$22 an hour through 2007, and then to \$16.50 thereafter. This would be a 40 percent cut in middle-class wages.

On Friday, Delphi filed a motion in bankruptcy court asking a judge to void its labor contracts. But how can you ask American workers to compete with a country like Japan which keeps its markets closed, the second largest market in the world? How can you ask our workers to compete with poverty level wages in Mexico and China? And how can you ask our workers to compete when big firms outsource everything to avoid paying workers what they justly deserve?

Late last year, Congressman GEORGE MILLER, ranking member of the Education and Workforce Committee, took the initiative to hold hearings on this subject.

I want to make sure this evening that many of the workers' voices from my district are heard, like Mary Pat Bishoff of Marblehead, who said, "My husband is 49 and has 32 years in at Delphi. He got sick and has been off since October. With only 5 years left on our first mortgage and 8 years on the

second, we had to refinance and take them up to 30 years just to survive. This will force us to pay \$733.11 a month instead of the \$152.11 we were paying. We are faced with a decision as so many others are, should he retire and risk losing his pension? Or, if he stays and they cut pay, that means sick pay will also go down and we will lose our home." What kind of a choice is that?

David Saylor of Port Clinton said, "I retired from the GM assembly plant at Lordstown, Ohio in December of 1987, with the promise I would have complete health care coverage for life. Well, I will now have to pay \$21 monthly, and that will greatly impact me since I took an early retirement and do not have the full 30-year retirement benefit."

Raymond Stahl of Vermillion, Ohio said, "They are shutting down the plant I work at and are moving it. Now I am out of a good paying job, and at my age it is going to be hard to even get another job let alone one that pays so well. America comes first, not overseas."

Andrew Briscar, another Ohioan, said, "I worked very hard for 20 years at the Delphi Packard Electric to get to a point where I can make a comfortable living for myself and my son. Now Delphi Packard Electric wants to cut my pay and benefits to a level that a young man or woman might make just coming out of high school."

Mr. Speaker, workers who dedicate years of service to a company should be able to count on a decent retirement and measure of economic security. This Congress must step up with meaningful pension reform to help secure pensions and encourage companies to continue providing them.

The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation should have been reinfused with funds long ago with its \$23 billion deficit, and we ought to be renegotiating trade agreements like NAFTA and CAFTA that continue to cash out good American jobs. Opponents said these jobs would go south, and they surely have, with GM now being Mexico's being largest employer. And it is no surprise that companies like Delphi, GM's biggest supplier, are following them.

I have spoken with Delphi management, and our delegation is doing everything possible to keep these Delphi jobs in America, but we need a majority of Members here dedicated to that purpose. I have invited Chairman Steve Miller of Delphi to tour the Sandusky Delphi facility and to meet with key employees and public officials, and he has yet to take me up on that offer.

Mr. Speaker, I would encourage the Members to sign on to the Balancing Trade Act of 2005 which I have introduced to ask our trade ambassador to come back to us with recommendations to write all of these trade deficits that we are incurring with other trading countries around the world. America simply must put ourselves back in a positive trade balance status.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FORTENBERRY) laid before the House the following communication from the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, April 5, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House, H232 Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Enclosed are copies of resolutions adopted on April 5, 2006 by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Copies of the resolutions are being transmitted to the Department of the Army.

Sincerely,

DON YOUNG,
Chairman.

Enclosures.

RESOLUTION—DOCKET 2748—LOWER KAWEAH DISTRIBUTARY SYSTEM, CALIFORNIA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army is requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Basin Streams, California, published as House Document No. 367, 81st Congress, and other pertinent reports to determine whether any modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time, in the interest of flood damage reduction, and related purposes in the Lower Kaweah Distributary System, California.

RESOLUTION—DOCKET 2749—CEDAR RIVER, TIME CHECK AREA, CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army is requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Iowa and Cedar Rivers, Iowa and Minnesota, published as House Document 166, 89th Congress, 1st Session, and other pertinent reports, to determine whether any modifications to the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time in the interest of flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, recreation, and related purposes along the Cedar River in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

RESOLUTION—DOCKET 2750—NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY, DELAWARE RIVER, PENNSYLVANIA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army is requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Delaware River and its tributaries, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York, published as House Document 179, 73rd Congress, 2nd Session, the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Delaware River published as House Document 522, 87th Congress, 2nd Session, and other pertinent reports to determine whether any modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time in the interest of improved navigational safety.

RESOLUTION—DOCKET 2751—COOS BAY, OREGON

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United